

## **MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**

Evangelical Homes – Sterling Heights  
14900 Shore Line Drive, Sterling Heights  
March 21, 2008

### **Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Kennedy thanked Evangelical Homes – Sterling Heights for hosting today's Commission meeting and public hearing.

#### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Thomas Rau, Ramesh Verma, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

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#### **COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

#### **OSA STAF PRESENT**

Cindy Albrecht, Steve Betterly, Janis Bowlin, Bonnie Graham, Sharon Gire, Lynne McCollum, Wendi Middleton, Neelam Puri, Holliace Spencer, and Sally Steiner

#### **VISITORS/GUEST PRESENT**

Joanna Shiloh Phelps, Karla Fales, John Gelletich, Angela Willis, Renee McCannon

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Walters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Wilson made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Walters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### **INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

#### **OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire updated the Commission on the following:

- Met with retired teachers in Waterford County
- Met with the new director of the Department of Human Services, Ismael Ahmed
- Met with the new Cabinet Secretary, Nathaniel Lake Jr. and provided him with an overview of aging services
- Announced that Peggy Brey is currently acting as Interim Director for the Office of Long Term Care Services and Support as well as OSA's Deputy Director.

- Attended a meeting with the Administration on Aging (AoA) to discuss a five-year strategic plan for the Alzheimer's Demonstration Grants.

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Budget update:

- FY 2009 state budget was forwarded to the Senate for approval and included an increase in line item for Care Management.

A brief discussion followed with regards to Deputy Brey's current job responsibilities and her roll in the Commission's strategic planning sessions. Chairperson Kennedy polled the Commission regarding moving forward with their strategic plan. Commission agreed they would like to move forward.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of FY 2008-09 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) Core Grant**

Neelam Puri, OSA staff, is requesting the Commission to approve the MMAP grant which runs from April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009, in the amount of \$1,607,100, noting an increase of \$534,513 from last year. Ms. Puri stated the funds are granted to the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), specifically for state health insurance programs. OSA sub-contracts with MMAP, Inc. to operate the statewide MMAP program and coordinate local service activities with the area agencies on aging.

Ms. Puri stated the MMAP core grant of \$1,128,700 includes an increase of \$156,113 in new funds. The core grant funds are used to plan, develop, and support a community-based network of local sites that provide one-on-one personalized health benefits counseling, education, and outreach to assist Medicare beneficiaries with their concerns.

Ms. Puri also explained the proposed allocation includes one-time funding in the amount of \$478,400 to enhance program efforts in the areas of recruitment, training, information systems development, partnership development and outreach. Ms. Puri noted that \$239,200 of the additional funding will be targeted to help people potentially eligible for the Low Income Subsidy (LIS) understand and apply for the subsidy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the FY 2008-09 MMAP Core Grant as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

### **Approval of FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for Region 3-B Area Agency on Aging (AAA)**

Steve Betterly, OSA staff, introduced Karla Fales, Director, John Gelletich, Financial Director, and Joanna Stelloh Phelps, Board Chairperson from Region 3-B, which covers Barry and Calhoun counties.

Mr. Betterly reminded commissioners that a six-month extension of the FY 2007 AIP for Region 3-B was approved by the Commission last August with special conditions addressing the financial viability of the area agency on aging. Mr. Betterly stated that many efforts involving diverse community groups have been made to address the financial problems of the Burnham Brook Center. As a result of these negotiations and efforts, resolution has been achieved that includes the sale of the Burnham Brook Center building to the Battle Creek Community Foundation. The foundation will continue senior center operations but also seek to establish the center as a "hub" of community programs for older adults. As part of these re-structuring efforts, the Region 3-B AAA will become a separate non-profit organization but will continue to rent space from the Burnham Brook Center.

Mr. Betterly requested Commission approval of the FY 2008 AIP for Region 3-B AAA. Mr. Betterly stated the AIP has been reviewed against the published format, approval criteria, most recent Statement of Grant Award (SGA), Federal Regulations, and statewide operating standards and policies. Mr. Betterly noted that compliance assessments were conducted on April 5 and July 12, 2007. Two public hearings on the AIP were held in the region on April 23, 2007. A copy of the AIP was sent to each county board of commissioners in the planning and service area. No local governments raised any issues of concern. Appendices requiring approval are Appendix F – Regional Service Definition, Appendix G – FY 2008 Request to Transfer Funds, and Appendix J – Administration of Direct Services. Mr. Betterly stated that there are also special conditions to this AIP, which he covered in detail.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the FY 2008 AIP for Region 3-B AAA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pawelski. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed regarding budget, lease options and future plans. Several commissioners commended the Region 3-B AAA Board and staff for their work to protect the agency while maintaining a commitment to the Burnham Brook Center and services for older adults in the community. Region 3-B staff acknowledged the support and assistance of Mr. Betterly and OSA in these efforts. Chairperson Kennedy also acknowledged Commissioner Wright for his support and advocacy on behalf of the organization during the past year.

#### **Revision to the Legal Assistance Funding Requirements**

Lynne McCollum, OSA staff, requested approval of an \$115,043 grant to Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. (ELM) for the Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors (LHMS). This grant represents funding for year two (June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009) of a 3-year Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems grant from the Administration on Aging (AoA). Ms. McCollum noted these funds are utilized to provide free legal advice and information to adults aged 60 and older throughout the state. The funding will also support a state-level Elder Rights Coalition (ERC), an older adult legal needs assessment, and efforts to improve coordination of and access to legal services.

Ms. McCollum also requested approval of an additional grant of \$20,000 from OSA administrative funds to ELM for supplemental support of the LHMS during FY 2008.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve the allocation of \$115,043 to Elder Law of Michigan, Inc. for the Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leung. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the additional \$20,000 to ELM for general operation of the LHMS as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newport. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A discussion followed with Ms. McCollum noting that 6,500 calls were received by the hotline in 2007, reflecting an increase of 2,500 calls from the previous year. Ms. McCollum stated there are a total of 27 senior legal hotlines in the country and a national technical assistance program that provides support to them. Ms. McCollum reported that Michigan ranks number one in the country for the number of technical assistance calls provided to both older adults and caregivers. Ms. McCollum discussed examples of the types of calls that the hotline receives and what level of assistance is given.

#### **Proposed Amendment to the FY 2008 Area Implementation Plan (AIP) for Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) – Region 1-A**

Jan Bowlin, OSA staff, introduced Gail Simmons and Faiz Esshaki, from DAAA, which covers the cities of Detroit, Grosse Pointe (GP), GP Farms, GP Park, GP Shores, GP Woods, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, and Highland Park.

Ms. Bowlin stated the Commission approved the FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan for the Detroit Area Agency on Aging at the September 21, 2007 meeting, which included four special conditions to be addressed by the agency. Ms. Bowlin reported that DAAA has satisfied the requirements set forth in special conditions 2, 3, and 4 and is requesting Commission approval to remove those conditions from the AIP. In addition, Ms. Bowlin requests an extension for completion of the requirements set forth by special condition 1 of the AIP.

Ms. Bowlin noted that special condition 1 currently states that no later than April 1, 2008, all congregate meal site hosts/hostesses must be transitioned from employment by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging to employment by the nutrition contractor, Valley Foods, Inc. DAAA is requesting a 6-month extension of this time frame to September 30, 2008 citing the inability of the nutrition contractor to assume responsibility of these employees. As a condition of the extension, DAAA will provide monthly status reports to OSA detailing the progress and projected timeline for transitioning the congregate site hosts/hostesses. Ms. Bowlin noted this extension will result in a savings of \$29,869 to DAAA and provide for a smoother transition for the site hosts/hostesses.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bollinger to approve the proposed amendment to the FY 2008 AIP for DAAA as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pawelski. Commission approved with a 13-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

### **Approval of the State Advisory Council (SAC) Nominations**

Sally Steiner, OSA staff, presented the nominations for membership to the State Advisory Council for 2008. Ms. Steiner noted a large number of applications from very qualified individuals were received and reviewed by the nominating committee. Ms. Steiner stated the nominating committee has a very difficult task of recommending new/re-appointments of members while also ensuring compliance with SAC requirements for senior representation, diversity, and geographic representation. This task was made more difficult this year given the need to recommend appointments for one to three year terms of office as required by the recently revised SAC By-laws. If approved, letters to all new members and applicants would be mailed following the Commission meeting in April.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the appointments of new members and re-appointments to the State Advisory Council as presented and seconded by Commissioner Newport. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion followed regarding possible improvements to the application to ensure culturally diverse.

### **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

#### **Legislative Update**

Sally Steiner stated that last fall OSA worked with the Governor's office and the House Democratic Policy staff on transforming the recommendations of the Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force into legislation. Ms. Steiner stated the cooperative efforts have produced positive results that will potentially strengthen protections for Michigan's vulnerable older adults.

Ms. Steiner stated that members of the House Democratic caucus held press conferences around the state in February to unveil the Elder Abuse Financial Plan, resulting in six bills being introduced to increase protections for older adults specifically in financial exploitation.

Ms. Steiner also noted that OSA has been monitoring two other bills pertaining to Blue Cross/Blue Shield bills 5282 and 5283. Bills 5282 and 5283, would change the rate setting process for Medicare supplemental insurance coverage and expose those between age 60 and

65 to higher premiums. Ms. Steiner stated that OSA is aware the two bills are being revised, as a result of considerable advocacy from a wide range of organizations and expert testimony presented to the Senate Health Policy Committee. Ms. Steiner updated the Commission on the status of other bills that are of interest to older adults in Michigan.

A brief discussion followed with Commissioner Newport asking that bills 5520-5525, which involve utilities, be included in OSA's legislative watch.

#### State Advisory Council (SAC) Report

Commissioner Walters updated the Commission on the March 6, 2008 meeting noting the SAC assignment from the Commission this year is senior centers. Commissioner Walters stated he will present an interim report of SAC activities at the April Commission meeting.

#### Other

Chairperson Kennedy reminded the Commission of the Elder Abuse Summit held on May 27, 2008 at the Kellogg Center.

Bonnie Graham noted that applications for reappointment to the Commission can be located at [www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov).

Commissioner Newport stated recognition of the Community for a Lifetime Award was conducted recently in Alpena and he thanked Dan Doezema from OSA for his presentation.

Chairperson Kennedy shared that on March 14 she attended a forum presented by the Council of Michigan Foundations entitled "Building an Encore Economy" on how experienced older adults can revitalize Michigan.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 18, 2008, at the Office of Services to the Aging, 7109 W. Saginaw Hwy, Room 3D, Lansing. Following the Commission meeting there will be a public hearing from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the State Advisory Council will be via phone conference on April 10 with a face-to-face meeting on June 12, 2008, at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, Lansing.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bollinger and seconded by Commissioner Wright. Chairperson Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.